The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occuring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

## WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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AGITATE!
EDUCATE!
ORGANIZE!

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# SUGAR-COATED SLAVE LAW URGED BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Washington, Aug. 26.—"Handcuff men to their jobs" is President Harding's solution for railroad strikes, announced by him in his personally-delivered message to congress on Friday, August 18.

The recommendation was garbed in the rhetoric of the day, but the applause it received from senators and representatives showed that they understood the president when he said decisions by the railroad labor board must be made enforceable.

Portions of the message recalled the anti-union publicity of a small town citizens' alliance secretary, so common a few years ago. A lurid picture of "lawlessness shocking to every conception of American law and order" was painted by the chief executive, who declared that "even officers of the federal government have been assaulted, humiliated and hindered in their duties" by railroad strikers. This part of the message sounded like the literature of the Parry-Post anti-union movement a quarter of a century ago, that was intended to inflame the public mind rather than to develop sound judgment.

At the conclusion of this awesome recital of banditry and mobocracy it was acknowledged that no state authority has confessed its inability to cope with the situation nor has any state asked for federal assistance. Neither were the lawmakers informed what steps have been taken to restore the dignity of the government and to protect officers of the federal government who "have been assaulted, humiliated and hindered in their duties."

The president blamed the collapse of railroad motive power on "these conditions of hindrance and intimidation."

The message intimated that the government knows nothing of the workers' long agitation to make the railroads cease violating orders of the railroad labor board. The workers have repeatedly shown that there have been approximately 100 of these violations, but in only one instance, says the president, "had a decision challenged by a carrier, been brought to the attention of the department of justice."

The president referred to his arbitration plan, which was rejected by the miners, as a "settlement so justly inspired that it was difficult to see how anyone believing in industrial peace and justice to all concerned could decline it."

It was not stated that the reason the miners declined was because the plan did not define what the arbitrators, to be appointed by the president, would arbitrate. Instead it gave them a roving commission to pass judgment at will. The miners attempted to have the duties of the commission defined, that it might proceed on regular lines. Failing in this these workers declined to sign the blank check.

The president explained the collapse of his plan to have the coal owners resume operation by stating that "the country is at the mercy of the United Mine Workers." There was no word of censure for the coal owners. Even their unconscionable profiteering was referred to as "the impressions of many cases of unjustifiable profits in the industry."

No feature of the miners' strike has proven so embarrassing to coal owners and their defenders as the proven fact that these employers did not tell the truth when they said coal could be mined if employes were assured protection. This claim is now shown to be false. The president acknowledged that "little or no new production followed," and because the miners refused to break their strike and permit union-smashing extortioners to lower wages, they are charged with having the nation by the throat.

Reference was made to the "hign" wages paid miners, and in another portion of the message it was stated that "in many instances last year men were employed less than 150 days, in some cases much fewer than that."

A "fact finding" agency, with authority to set wages for the mining industry was favored. Soft coal owners and mine workers have agreed to set up a "fact finding" agency, but this will not reach far enough, according to the president, who again calls for "handcuff" laws. He said such agency "may advise as to fair wages and as to conditions of labor and recommend the enactment of laws to protect the public in the future."

The message closed with a ringing plea for the "right of every man to work." This usual defense of strikebreakers brought rounds of applause from lawmakers who ignored the pleas for opportunity to labor made last winter by millions of unemployed.

## RAIL PROPAGANDISTS SPREAD MURDER TALES

Bloomington, Ill., Aug. 26. — Methods of railroad propagandists were exposed by the Daily Bulletin of this city, which denies that strikebreakers were slugged, as alleged by a correspondent in the Chicago Tribune. The Daily Bulletin says:

"The Chicago Tribune, under the caption 'Voice of the People,' published a letter from H. G. Allen entitled 'Free Speech in Kansas,' which makes mention of Bloomington and the strike situation here. The things referred to did not happen here, nor were they published in local newspapers. Following is a part of the article in which this city is mentioned, and in which a false impression is given concerning local conditions:

"Recently, in passing through Bloomington, Ill., I read in the local newspapers the reports of attacks that had been made upon workers in the shops there by strikers. In one instance a man had his arm broken by a blackjack in the hands of a striker. In another instance a worker had saved his life by promising the strikers who were attacking him that he would leave town. The newspapers that reported these and other instances also contained an expression from the local officers of Bloomington that they were powerless to prevent these attacks."

## *Private War Plants Want Government Aid*

Washington, Aug. 26.—A new form of subsidy is being urged by owners of private war munitions plants. They want the government to pay for the upkeep of these establishments until the next "emergency."

Samuel Vauclain, president of the Baldwin locomotive works, is spokesman for these owners, who can find no peace-time use for their establishments and they want Uncle Sam to take charge of them until time for another orgy of profiteering.

It is stated that there are 12 of these plants, some of them involving an investment of $10,000,000. The prices that the government paid for war munitions permitted excessive profits and also allowed for sufficient funds to be set aside to pay for the investment. The government has thus paid for these plants, but the private owners would now have the government protect their war profits by relieving them of the upkeep, that the plants may be maintained in condition until the next war. Then the cry will again be heard: "The government must not interfere with private initiative."

According to press comment, Secretary of War Weeks favors the plan, which must be indorsed by congress. The war secretary is quoted: "If there is a war within 10 years it would be a paying proposition for the government to subsidize the plants and keep them in operation."

### LOREE IS REBUKED.

Washington, Aug. 26.—President Loree, a "die-hard" opponent of organized labor, was rebuked by Senator Pepper because of the character of messages to senators on the railroad strike situation. In a telegram to the rail executive, the lawmaker said:

"The temper which appears to have inspired both of these telegrams seem to be most unfortunate. They indicate on your part a lack of appreciation of the actual situations and of the efforts that are being made to deal with it. A great industrial crisis can not be dealt with wisely by those who allow themselves to substitute anger for judgment."

### ROADS MUST OBEY LAW.

Ottawa, Ontario, Aug. 26.—Officials of Canadian National and Grand Trunk railways have been notified by government officials that they must not violate the industrial disputes act. The government took this action when it was announced the roads would cut wages without asking for the appointment of a conciliation board, as provided by law.

### BIG PROFITS IN MOVIES.

New York, Aug. 26.—The big profits in moving pictures is shown by a statement by the Famous Players-Lasky corporation that net profits for the first six months of the current year totaled $2,015,237. This profit is over and above all charges and taxes.

## SUBSIDY ADVOCATES EXPOSED BY GOMPERS

Washington, Aug. 26.—To prove the untruth of claims by ship subsidy advocates, President Gompers made inquiries at the British embassy in this city, and was informed that Great Britain pays no ship subsidies.

In conveying this information to organized labor, the A. F. of L. executive said:

"Opposition to the ship subsidy scheme is growing rapidly. The misrepresentation indulged in by those who are trying to impose a subsidy upon the people is having its effect. For instance, cartoons are being printed in the press that is easily reached by the publicity agents of the shipping board setting forth that Great Britain pays subsidies to British ship owners.

"We interviewed representatives of the British government at the British embassy on this feature of the subsidy propaganda, and we were told that Great Britain pays no subsidies to ship owners; that the only money paid to them is 'for services rendered.'

"If the subsidy scheme were for the benefit of the people it would not be necessary to resort to misstatements in order to remove opposition to the measure."

## *Unionists Are Urged To Aid Rail Strikers*

Washington, Aug. 26.—In an appeal forwarded to all organized labor, the A. F. of L. executive council asks that the fullest moral and financial support be extended striking railroad shop men.

"The struggle in which these workers are involved is one which is important, not only to themselves and to their organizations, but to all organized workers and to all Americans who love justice and fair dealing," it is stated.

"An injustice cannot be inflicted upon the railroad workers without leaving its mark of shame upon the record of our whole industrial life. It is essential to the well-being of the men on strike, to the well-being of all workers, and to the well-being of our national and industrial organization that justice shall prevail in the struggle now going on in the railroad industry.

"It must be clear to all wage earners, and to all thinking men and women, that the policy which has been pursued by the railroads has been entirely in harmony with the policies of all organizations of employers, which, since the armistice, have been seeking to weaken and destroy the voluntary organizations of the workers. The railroads have been engaged in this effort from the moment government control was relinquished on March 1, 1920."

The executive council explains at length the attempts of the shop men to secure justice from the railroad labor board and avoid being forced to suspend work. Unions are asked to forward all contributions to Frank Morrison, secretary A. F. of L., Washington.

### NEW MINERS' TRIALS ON.

Charles Town, W. Va., Aug. 26.—With more than 100 witnesses from the coal section, the trial of Walter Allen, charged by the coal owners with attempting to "overthrow the state" opened last Monday. The state's attorneys are practically all in the pay of coal owners. These attorneys state that with the conclusion of the Allen trial, they will try Frank Keeney and Fred Mooney, president and secretary-treasurer of district No. 17, and William Blizzard, president of subdistrict No. 2, on indictments charging them with being accessories before the fact of the murder of Logan county guards.

Mooney and Blizzard were recently chosen in the Kanawha county primaries as candidates for the house of delegates at the state capitol. The coal owners are making strenuous efforts to fasten murder charges on them.

### ALERT TO JAP MENACE.

Victoria, B. C., Aug. 26.—Commercial interests are at last alert to the Japanese menace and many business men now accept organized labor's view of this situation. Years ago these employers were fulsome in their praise of the Japs, but these sentiments are no longer heard. The reason for the change is the discovery that the Japs are silently gaining a foothold in the fishing, lumbering, agricultural and other industries.

### OPPOSE SHIP SUBSIDY.

Wilmington, N. C., Aug. 26.—The pending ship subsidy bill was opposed by the convention of the state federation of labor. This federal legislation was referred to as "a free gift to capitalists."

## ROADS FIND FRIENDS IN O. B. U. SHOUTERS

Winnipeg, Canada, Aug. 26.—The one big union, formed in Calgary, four years ago, has traveled the usual road of these movements and now consists of a handful of men who have failed in their attempt to divide striking shop men.

With the workers alert to the o. b. u. fallacy its promoters have found it necessary to devise new methods to "save" the workers. As a preliminary, the usual attack on officers of the shop men was launched. The next move was to issue a leaflet with ballot attached. Then a mass meeting was called, which was attended by less than 2 per cent of the striking shop men of this city. At the meeting the o. b. u.'s insisted that shop men of western Canada should negotiate their own agreement.

The proceedings have exposed the former noisy pleaders for "broad international principles," who are now endeavoring to split the shop men of western Canada off from other parts of the Dominion and the United States as well. These men have denounced as "tools of the capitalists" any wage worker who recognized national boundaries, and they were equally vehement against wage scales and boards of arbitration. Former policies are easily discarded by these men who are now pleading for arbitration and wage boards. Their greatest treachery, however, is their attempt to divide Canadian workers. The strikebreaking attempts of these one big unionites mark their end in western Canada.

### PROFITEERS ARE FREE.

Washington, Aug. 26. — Under present laws the government has no power to control coal profiteers, according to a letter written by Secretary of Commerce Hoover to Senator Borah. The cabinet official said:

"I am advised that the federal authority in the matter outside of war does not extend beyond the control of coal moving in interstate commerce or for the maintenance of interstate commerce. Therefore, any effective organization for control of price must depend upon the state authorities erecting such complimentary machinery as will protect their citizens on coal produced and consumed within their own boundaries, and against undue margins on the resale of coal, whether imported into the state or produced within it. I am advised that the federal government can set up legislation that would provide for the movement of coal at fair prices over the boundaries to consuming states. From that point forward the responsibility must rest with the state."

### CARPENTERS RAISE WAGES.

Hartford, Conn., Aug. 26.—Carpenters' union No. 43 has reinstated their former rate of $1 a day, which was recently cut to 90 cents. As this city has a building boom, "there's nothing to do but pay it," was the mournful comment of the president of the bosses' union.

## *PLATFORM REPUDIATED BY PRESIDENT HARDING*

Washington, Aug. 26.—The president was elected on a platform which favored the creation of tribunals to adjust differences between employers and employed in public utilities. The platform specifically declared that "the decisions of the tribunals should be morally but not legally binding." The labor sections of the Cummins-Esch act were cited as a good basis for these tribunals, thereby declaring that it is not unlawful to strike against a decision of the board.

The president now takes a position opposite from the platform on which he was elected. Before congress, on August 18, he repudiated his platform and advocated the unAmerican doctrine of compulsory arbitration—not immediately, however, because of the pending national elections.

The parallel columns indicate the before-election and the after-election positions indicated above:

| Republican National Platform, 1920. | President Harding Before Congress, August 18, 1922. |
|---|---|
| In public utilities we favor the establishment of an impartial tribunal to make an investigation of the facts and to render a decision to the end that there may be no organized interruption of service necessary to the lives, health and welfare of the people. THE DECISIONS OF THE TRIBUNALS SHOULD BE MORALLY BUT NOT LEGALLY BINDING, and an informal public sentiment be relied on to secure their acceptance. The tribunals, however, should refuse to accept jurisdiction except for the purpose of investigation as long as the public service be interrupted. FOR PUBLIC UTILITIES WE FAVOR THE TYPE OF TRIBUNAL PROVIDED FOR IN THE TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 1920. | The law creating the railroad labor board is inadequate.<br>Contrary to popular impression it has little or no power to enforce its decisions.<br>It can impose no penalties on either party disregarding its decisions. It cannot halt a strike, and manifestly congress deliberately omitted the enactment of compulsory arbitration.<br>THE DECISIONS OF THE BOARD MUST BE MADE ENFORCEABLE and effective against carriers and employes alike.<br>But the law is new and no perfection of it by congress at this moment could be helpful in the present threatened paralysis of transportation. |

## *"Illegal Methods" To Convict Mooney*

Cincinnati, Aug. 26.—Thos. Mooney was convicted by "illegal and dishonorable methods," declares John P. Frey, editor of the International Molders' Journal, in urging trade unionists to petition Governor Stephens to pardon Mooney and Billings.

"They should do so as a matter of duty, because Thomas J. Mooney and Warren K. Billings are still behind penitentiary bars in spite of the fact of the prosecuting attorney's statement that there is no evidence which would prove them guilty of the crime they are charged with," says Editor Frey.

"When a local union forwards a communication to Governor Stephens they should also notify Mrs. Rena Mooney, box 344, San Francisco, Cal., so that this loyal woman, who has devoted all of her energy and her time in her husband's defense, may know that another communication has been sent to the governor."

### BIG INSURANCE PROFITS.

New York, Aug. 26.—The Continental insurance company has placed its stock on a 24 per cent basis. From its organization in 1853 up to December 31, 1921, it has paid $26,414,357 in cash dividends and $8,000,000 in stock dividends. Last year the company made a clear profit of $5,092,027. At the end of the year the company had a surplus of more than $12,000,000.

### ENGINEERS WILL MEET.

Chicago, Aug. 26.—Officers of the International Union of Steam and Operating Engineers have issued a call for the next convention to be held in Minneapolis in September.

## *Tricky Law Maker Opposed by Labor*

Seattle, Aug. 26.—Organized labor in this state is opposing the reelection of United States Senator Poindexter, one of the three senators who resorted to tricky methods in the last congress to sneak a "can't-strike" bill through the senate, when less than half a dozen members were present.

In a letter to the Washington state federation of labor containing Poindexter's anti-labor record, President Gompers said:

"When he (Poindexter) returned to Washington after his last election he came to my office here and expressed to me his gratitude for the support which the labor men of Washington and I had given him without which, he said, he could not have been elected. He came to my office voluntarily and made that statement, but the manner in which he has since manifested his hostility to the working people of America raises the question as to his sincerity when he expressed his gratitude for the aid labor had given him in his last election in 1916."

### "FRAMED" EVIDENCE USED.

Norwalk, Conn., Aug. 26.—Federal Judge Thomas issued an injunction against striking shop men employed by the New Haven railroad on sworn evidence, presented by the railroad's attorneys. Attorneys for the workers insisted that the proceedings were illegal and refused to answer the claims of the railroad. About the same time Judge Thomas was issuing his injunction, other attorneys for the railroad saw the New Haven city court dismiss alleged assault cases which were based on the identical evidence presented to the federal court.

## "CAN'T-STRIKE" ADVOCATES BELONG IN REVOLUTIONARY CAMP

If commissions can set workers' wages, and hold labor to its task by the power of government, why not probe the needs of professional men and fix their incomes?

On what theory of the most primitive justice can wages-by-law advocates defend their plan that handcuff legislation shall only apply to wage earners?

It seems incredible that these patriots, these "100 per cent Americans" and haters of foreign ideas in government, would favor the imported theory that working men and women are apart from the blue blood of traders and money lenders.

Do these wages-by-law advocates want to destroy the American ideal of equality? Do they realize what it means to have a nation lose its soul?

Do they want to establish new theories of government? Do they want to revise the Declaration of Independence?

These men must either declare for serfdom or they must favor the widest extension of their wages-by-law system. They are now nibbling at the revolutionists' theory. Logically they belong in that camp.

To be consistent they must apply their theory to lawmakers and judges. None will say that the intellects of these professionals are uniform. Why not probe the home life of every lawmaker and judge and notify their wives of the number of hose and undergarments per annum they may have.

What objection can there be to this procedure? Surely, the advocates of compulsory arbitration and handcuff laws do not believe there are classes in this country!

Why should the wants and aspirations of workers, and none others, be card indexed by commissions that have the power to enforce their orders?

Why should government officials be authorized to go into the home of the humblest railroad section employe and not, for instance, into the white house?

"But the section employe accepted certain moral obligations to the public when he took his job," saith the oily wages-by-law advocate.

The section employe did nothing of the kind. The morality he and his fellow workers know is that they and their families will be ground to bits by a dividend-hungry corporation if they fail to unite.

To talk of the workers' "moral obligations" while the public is blind to its duties as citizens is to apply a logic used only by patriots of the thinnest veneer.

It is impossible for a wages-by-law advocate to be a patriot in the real sense. He may excel in lip service, but no man is capable of grasping the essence of American liberty and equality who favors such class legislation, such a serf proposal as chaining workers to their jobs.

This lip service patriot would drive the American ideal from the heart and soul of every working man and woman. He talks of the constitution and liberty, but what he wants is a race of serfs, who will not interfere with his profits. To him government is an invention intended to protect dollars. It has no other possibility.

He would strangle liberty, deaden the public conscience and make it a crime for workers to strike.

These are the men who pose as patriots, and while advocating their wicked plan to chain workers to their jobs they make hollow protest against "those who would create classes in our country."

"O, liberty, what crimes are committed in thy name."

## THIS GOVERNMENT NO ONE-MAN AFFAIR

Washington, Aug. 26.—This government is not a one-man affair, declared Congressman Huddleston of Alabama, in referring to this closing statement by the president in his message to congress:

> "Wherefore, I am resolved to use all the power of the government to maintain transportation and sustain the right of men to work."

"The president's peroration is merely idle bluster and rotund platitude," declared Congressman Huddleston. "The president is not the government. In using 'government' as meaning the administration he forgets America in his old world phraseology. There is no 'government' in or of the United States except that composed of three co-ordinate branches, of which the president represents only one—the executive.

"In the United States 'government' means congress, the courts and the administration. It is a gross presumption for an executive to assume that he is the government, that he speaks for the government, or that he has authority 'to use all the power of government.' The president will not use 'all the power of government to maintain transportation and to sustain the right of men to work.' He will use for such purposes merely such authority as congress has granted him for that purpose.

"Let me further remind him that neither the president nor federal government has any constitutional warrant to protect strikebreakers. The American system of sovereign states yet remains. The states having reserved their police powers to themselves are exclusively charged with the preservation of public order. There is, of course, the federal authority to protect the mails and other property of the federal government, to protect the states against invasion and to protect the states 'against domestic violence'—when invited to do so by state authorities.

"Any attempt on the part of the president to intervene in the domestic affairs of a state or to busy himself in the preservation of order which may not be in strict conformity to the constitution and statutes will constitute an usurpation far more serious in its consequences than any disorder of which irresponsible strikers or other persons might be guilty. Such an usurpation, as an act of lawlessness committed by the chief executive, would be an offense against our civilization which would overshadow any possible situation of violence at which it might be aimed."

### VICTORIOUS MINERS FORCE STEEL WAGES UP

New York, Aug. 26.—The steel trust has raised wages 20 per cent for 150,000 workers who have been paid 30 cents an hour for a 10-hour day. The Midvale and the Youngstown sheet and tube company have taken similar action. In some steel mills wages for common labor now ranges between 23 and 27 cents an hour.

The wage increase is the direct result of the miners' victory which President Grace of the Bethlehem steel corporation deplored because of its effect on the steel industry.

It is agreed that the increase, which is yet below the living line, will be used as an excuse to raise steel prices. This is indicated by the refusal of steel manufacturers to accept orders for future delivery on the old price schedule.

### WANT WAGE CUTS.

New York, Aug. 26.—If the views of Eugene G. Grace, president of Bethlehem steel corporation, are identical with other business men, the bituminous mine strike settlement is a disappointment to these interests.

"Unless the settlement eventually contemplates the liquidation of costs through labor, then the settlement is not sound and will stand in the way of reinstatement of prosperous times," said Mr. Grace.

Mr. Grace made this statement following a meeting of his board of directors at which time the merger with the Lackawanna steel company was approved. This merger will benefit "insiders" to the amount of millions of dollars, which will be an added cost to the steel industry.

Since President Grace made the above statement the steel trust has raised wages 20 per cent, making the rate $3.60 for a 10-hour day.

### ASSAULT STRIKERS' FRIEND.

Salisbury, N. C., Aug. 26.—John Sloop, of this city, came near being mobbed by infuriated shop men when he assaulted Rev. Tom C. Jimison, pastor of the First Methodist church at Spencer. The clergyman has been unsparing in his defense of the striking shop men, and his ardor for their cause is probably not exceeded in the south.

## "PRESIDENT'S STRIKE MESSAGE IS ATTEMPT TO CONTROL LABOR"

*--President Gompers*

Washington, Aug. 26.—In an interview with newspaper correspondents at A. F. of L. headquarters, President Gompers construed the president's strike message as an attempt to compel men to work under threat of bayonet or jail sentence, and as an indirect threat of government by injunction.

The president took no new position in his message, for when he was senator he was favorably inclined toward anti-strike legislation, said President Gompers.

"The president said in substance," continued the trade unionist, "that the decisions of the railroad labor board must be made enforceable. That is, and no other construction can be placed upon it, if the labor board or any other board of similar functions renders a decision reducing wages further, or disposing of conditions pertaining to rights and interests of the workers, they have to go to work whether they like it or not. And if they refuse, what then? They would go to jail. In other words, the penalty of fine or imprisonment, or both, will be the method of enforcing the decisions of the railroad labor board, or if not that the men will be forced to labor under guns."

The president's indorsement of a fact-finding coal commission, which has been advocated by organized labor, Mr. Gompers opposed on the ground that Mr. Harding seeks to have this body made up of men independent of the coal industry. "Such a proposal," said the unionist, "does not commend itself to practical men."

Referring to the president's recommendation for enactment of a bill to give federal courts jurisdiction to protect aliens in rights assured to them by treaty between their countries and the United States, President Gompers said:

"No one can regard the Herrin trouble without indignation, yet it has been officially ascertained that company men first shot innocent men, guilty of no wrong, not even of trespass. The president may be right but I do not know that the findings of a coroner's jury, composed of business men of the vicinity, can be described as farcical."

"Anyway, it was a nasty piece of business, which no one can justify. But what is the purpose? Is it really to protect the alien or is it another effort to override the constitution and the rights of states?"

President Gompers denied the president's charge that the country is at the mercy of the United Mine Workers.

"People are inconvenienced by strikes and lockouts," he said, "but there is no instance in the history of industry where the country has been placed at the mercy of an organization of labor. If high finance and big business can enforce wage reductions, impairing the buying power of the mass of the people, it is a greater menace to the republic than any strike of coal miners or shop men.

"I have an abiding faith that at last the common sense of the people of the United States will prevail and that they will not give up principles of guaranteed freedom because big business, high finance and subservient politicians want to go that far. The people have some notion of what their guaranteed rights under the constitution are."

## RAILROADS WRECKED BY WAGE REDUCERS

Indianapolis, Aug. 26.—"The railroad manipulators are determined to classify and maintain as a legitimate, normal-paying investment an industry they have looted, waterlogged and all but wrecked, and this they propose to do without submitting to liquidation," says the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen's Magazine.

"They have milked the public treasury of billions of dollars, and now the subsidy game has been played to the limit they ruthlessly turn on the transportation worker as the helpless victim of further exploitation to meet their ends.

"The people have been so deluded and confused by railroad propaganda that has been plastered all over the United States that nothing short of grim reality laid bare by passing events can wake them up—but they are waking up.

"The people are beginning to understand that they have been forced to pay the railroad manipulators big returns on eight billions of water. They are finding out that the railroads got a $1,500,000,000 rate increase to meet a $600,000,000 increase in wages; that wages were then slashed $400,000,000 and none of the 'saving' was passed on to the public until after $1,300,000,000 had been cut from the railroad pay rolls—and then freight reductions amounting to approximately $200,000,000 were made. Thus we find that, according to interstate commerce commission reports, profits of the big railroads have almost doubled the past year."

### FOOD PRICES UP.

Washington, Aug. 26.—The United States bureau of labor statistics reports that there was an increase of 1 per cent in the retail cost of food to the average family in July, as compared with June.

The following increases from June 15 to July 15 were recorded: Granulated sugar, 7 per cent; strictly fresh eggs, 6 per cent; navy beans, 5 per cent; potatoes, 3 per cent; sirloin steak, round steak, fresh milk and butter, 2 per cent; rib roast, chuck roast, pork chops, ham, cheese, crisco, baked beans and prunes, 1 per cent.

In the decreases, onions led with 13 per cent and cabbage with 10 per cent. Hens decreased 3 per cent; leg of lamb and flour, 2 per cent; plate beef, canned corn, canned tomatoes, and bananas, 1 per cent. There were practically no changes in salmon, nut margarine, raisins, oleomargarine, lard, bread, corn meal, rolled oats, corn flakes, cream of wheat, macaroni, rice canned peas and tea.

### UPHOLD STRIKERS' CAMP.

Trenton, N. J., Aug. 26.—Sheriff Firth of this county refused the request of railroad representatives that a camp of striking railroad shop men outside the city limits be demolished. The railroad officials said "violence might ensue if the camp is not cleared out." The strikers are accused of offending guards, who are ex-service men, by raising and lowering the American flag and by frequently hanging in effigy a uniformed dummy intended to represent the guards.

The sheriff held that the shop men were doing nothing illegal and that the camp is conducted in an orderly manner.

### SECESSIONISTS ROUTED.

New York, Aug. 26.—After two years' [illegible] the national organization of Masters, Mates and Pilots have defeated secessionists who were using the same name as the bona fide union. The court ordered that the secessionists make no attempt to use this title.

### SIGN NEW CONTRACT.

Bloomington, Ill., Aug. 26.—A minimum wage of 44 cents an hour features a contract between the Showers brothers' furniture company and A. F. of L. federal union No. 16604.

## MANY INJUNCTIONS HURLED AT WORKERS

Albany, N. Y., Aug. 26.—In the fight of organized paper makers against the International paper company's attempt to reduce wages, these workers have felt the full force of government by injunction. In the current issue of Paper Makers' Journal, President Carey of the International Brotherhood of Paper Makers, publishes a list of these writs at Niagara Falls, Corinth, Fort Edward, N. Y.; Bellows Falls and Wilder, Vt.; Franklin, N. H.; Rumford Falls, and Livermore, Me.; and other papermaking localities.

These writs are a brazen denial of fundamental rights. In Corinth the village authorities were enjoined from holding a special election. President Carey's description of the Rumford Falls injunction follows:

"In Rumford Falls, Me., most of the business of the town is done on an island. The unions had headquarters in which they held their meetings on a street almost opposite where the government post office and city hall are located. The entrance to the mills of the International paper company is on the street immediately back of that, and most of the employes going to work in the mills would of necessity pass over this main thoroughfare. The judge in Rumford Falls fined six of the citizens $50 each for walking on that street immediately in front of the hall for which they were paying rent and gave as a reason that the men who were taking their places in the mill would have to hang their heads in shame when walking by them. There was no evidence to show that any unlawful act had been committed, but simply because of the shame of others the citizens were fined."

### WAR WAGES NOT HIGH.

New York, Aug. 26.—"High wages during the year were by no means so general as believed," says the commission on the church and social service of the federal council of the churches of Christ of America, in its "Labor Sunday Message, 1920."

"The demand for a reduction of wages in proportion to the reduction in living costs," it is stated, "has been made without reference to the fact that wages, prior to the war, were too low, and cannot be fairly used as basis of wage determination. Some employers recognize this. The outstanding crises of the year—the coal strike and the railway strike—have grown in the main out of inadequacy of earnings. The plight of the coal miners, due to scant employment, is at last receiving public recognition. The reductions in the earnings of railway workers have placed many of them in almost a desperate situation."

### ONE FRANK EDITOR.

Pittsburgh, Penn., Aug. 26.—The Pittsburgh Gazette-Times, a fine old tory organ, prints this frank opinion of the president's message to congress:

"Compulsory arbitration under government auspices of labor disputes affecting basic industries is President Harding's prescription for preventing repetition of the coal and railroad strikes. This is what he meant in recommending to congress action to make the railroad labor board's decision enforceable and effective, and national investigation for constructive recommendations as to conduct of the coal industry."

### ALLEN 'FESSES UP.

Topeka, Kan., Aug. 26.—In speaking before the University club in this city Governor Allen admitted that he may have exceeded his constitutional powers in regard to recent strike matters. To this statement the Kansas Trade Unionist replies:

"The governor scores laboring people for what he terms the violation of the laws of the state, but when the state's chief executive himself admits guilt he should be brought to account."